

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 IO-13 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 NIC-01

RSR-01 /103 W

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R 081606Z AUG 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2207

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS BERLIN 1357

E.O. 11652: N/-A

TAGS: PFOR, GE

SUBJECT: ULBRICHT'S FUNERAL

REF: BERLIN 1331

1. EAST GERMAN LEADERSHIP LED BY SED PARTY CHIEF HONECKER
GATHERED IN FORCE, AUGUST 7, TO PAY LAST RESPECTS TO
DECEASED GDR STATE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN WALTER ULBRICHT.
AT SOLEMN AND DIGNIFIED STATE CEREMONY IN STATE COUNCIL
BUILDING, HONECKER EULOGIZED ULBRICHT IN RESTRAINED
TERMS AS A "GREAT PROLETRIAN REVOLUTIONARY", WHO HAD
FOUGHT UNTIRINGLY FOR HIS "PARTY, THE WORKING CLASS AND
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THE PEOPLE OF THE GDR". EAST GERMAN GENERAL ORRICERS

STOOD GUARD OVER SARCOPHAGUS DURING CEREMONY AND MILITARY ESCORT LED PROCESSION TO CREMATORIUM. ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENTAL DECREE, URN WILL BE PLACED NEXT TO THOSE OF PIECK AND GROTEWOHL IN BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSFELD CEMETERY ON SEPTEMBER 17.

2. MOST PROMINENT FOREIGN DIGNITARIES ATTENDING CEREMONY WERE CHAIRMAN OF PRESIDUM OF USSR SUPREME SOVIET, PODGORNYY; CZECHOSLOVAK PRESIDENT, SVOBODA; HUNGARIAN PRESIDENT OF PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL, LOSONCZI; AND ROMANIAN MINISTER PRESIDENT, MAURER. SIGNIFICANTLY, NO GDR COMMUNIST PARTY HEADS WERE PRESENT. AT EXPRESSED WITH GDR AUTHORITIES WESTERN NATIONS, WITH FEW, IF ANY, EXCEPTIONS, WERE REPRESENTED BY THEIR RANKING DIPLOMATS IN EAST BERLIN.

3. EAST GERMAN MEDIA GAVE EVENT FULL COVERAGE, AUGUST 7-8, WITH PRESS PUBLISHING IN SOME DETAIL OFFICIAL LETTERS OF CONDOLENCE, PRIMARILY FROM SOVIETS AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES BUT INCLUDING THOSE OF PRESIDENT HEINEMAN, QUEEN ELIZABETH AND PRESIDENT POMPIDOU. IMPRESSIVE, IF NOT OVERWHELMING, CROWDS FORMED TO VIEW FINAL PROCESSION.KLEIN

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NNN

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